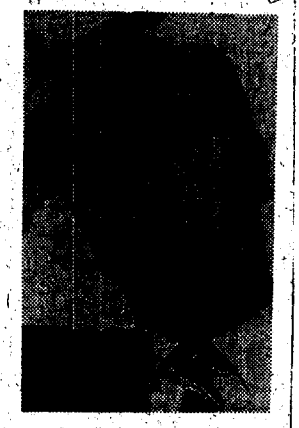

JIM GARRISON

DA Clamps Lid on JFK 'Plot' Data

NYWGT 2/21/67

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 21 (AP) — District Attorney Jim Garrison says he is clamping strict secrecy on his Kennedy assassination probe. Garrison estimates that arrests are "months away."

The New Orleans district attorney said he would even set up a special fund so he won't have to file public expense vouchers which give a clue to the activities of his investigators.

Sweating under camera floodlights, Garrison reiterated yesterday at what he called a final news conference that there "will be arrests, charges and convictions."

Garrison contends that a conspiracy was born here which resulted in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

The official report by the Warren Commission said Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald—a former New Orleans resident—and that it found no credible evidence anyone else was involved.

ASKS NEW PROBE

Garrison's probe has stirred both interest and skepticism. In Washington yesterday, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., urged that the Warren Commission reopen its investigation.

In Detroit, Sol A. Dann, a former lawyer for the late Jack Ruby, telegraphed Garrison urging him to arrange for a federal or state grand jury probe.

Dann sent a similar wire to Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion, with the added request that an inquiry be made into "Jim Garrison's information or evidence."

Garrison has said he has no intention now of turning over his information to state or federal officials.

BARS REPORTERS

At the news conference, he said that "premature" disclosure of the investigation by New Orleans newspapers had seriously hampered the investigation. He barred reporters from the city's newspapers from the conference room.

"Remove 'em by force," shouted Garrison, when a Times-Picayune reporter refused to leave. "Throw them out, if necessary." An aide pushed the newsman out of the room.

Asked if he thought any foreign country or any official was involved in the alleged conspiracy, Garrison said no. He turned away most questions with "no comment."

Garrison said he expects to obtain convictions for conspiring to kill President Kennedy and for being accessories after the fact—that is, "having substantial knowledge . . . and withholding information."

His special investigation fund, he said, will be made up of bank loans and "some contributions I think we will receive."

In Baton Rouge, the state capital, Gov. John McKeithen said he had known of the Garrison investigation since Christmas. It started last October. He added that if Garrison needs cooperation from the state, it will be provided.